

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13, which starts with "Each of MSPs 12₁-12₃"

Each of MSPS12₁-12₃ serves at least one, and in some instances, a plurality of premises 16 belonging to one or more customers. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 1, the MSP 12₁ serves a single customer premises 16₁ belonging to customer 1 whereas, the MSP12₂ serves premises 16₂, and 16₃ belonging to customers 2 and 3, respectively. The MSP 12₃ serves a single premises 16₄ that belongs to customer 3. The MSPs 12₁-12₃ [[13₃]] are linked to their corresponding premises via 10, 100, 1000 MB links [[18]] 19. The MSP 12₄ bears the legend "CO MSP" because it serves as a central office to route traffic from the MAN 10 to a Provider Edge Router (PER) 18 for delivery to other networks, such as Frame Relay, ATM, MPLS networks or the Internet as discussed hereinafter. By the same token, the PER 18 can route traffic from such other networks onto the MAN 10 via the CO MSP 12₄.